



ANHA

December 2008

NATIONAL HERITAGE AREAS Alliance Update

New! Discover Our Shared Heritage Travel Itinerary on the American Presidents features National Heritage Area sites, stories



Photo courtesy of National Park Service

Springwood, the Roosevelt Family Home, along the Hudson River in the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area

The National Park Service recently announced the launch of a new on-line travel itinerary highlighting the American Presidents. Many of the featured sites are located within National Heritage Areas, including Monticello, Thomas Jefferson's home in Virginia (Journey Through Hallowed Ground NHA), the Lincoln Home National Historic Site in Illinois (Abraham Lincoln NHA) and Springwood, the Roosevelt Family Home, in New York (Hudson River Valley NHA). The itinerary includes links to the Heritage Areas' websites in the "Learn More" section. Almost half of the sites are also part of the National Park System.

The American Presidents itinerary is the 47th in the National Park Service's ongoing Discover Our Shared Heritage Travel Itinerary Series. The series promotes public awareness of history and encourages visits to historic places throughout the country. The National Park Service's Heritage Education Services produced the itinerary in partnership with the National Park Service Office of Tourism, the White House Historical Association, and the National Conference of State Historic

Preservation Officers. Staff from many units of the National Park System and the other sites included in the itinerary, State historic preservation offices, and others assisted in developing the content and provided images, making the itinerary a true collaborative effort. Visit the full itinerary at <http://www.nps.gov/history/NR/travel/presidents/>



The Lincoln National Historic Site in Springfield, IL lies within the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area

NEWS *from the* HERITAGE AREAS

Schuylkill River Heritage Area launches user survey

The Schuylkill River Heritage Area (SRHA) recently commenced a 12-month Schuylkill River Trail User Survey. The study will gather data on trail users and their economic impact on local communities. Survey forms are available at trailheads along the Schuylkill River Trail, which traverses parts of Schuylkill, Berks, Montgomery and Philadelphia counties in Pennsylvania as well as at businesses that provide goods and services for trail users. The survey, which began in October, is being funded by a grant from the Philadelphia-based William Penn Foundation.



User survey forms are available along the Schuylkill River Trail.

Information gathered from the surveys will be used to direct trail improvements and determine which businesses stand to benefit most by being located near the trail. In addition, on March 19, 2009, the SRHA will host a Trail Towns Conference with the goal of helping communities along the Schuylkill River Trail better harness the economic benefits made possible by their proximity to the resource. For more information on the Schuylkill River Trail visit the Schuylkill River Heritage Area website at www.schuylkillriver.org.

Mormon Pioneer National Heritage Area completes multiple heritage tourism, preservation initiatives

The Mormon Pioneer National Heritage Area (MPNHA) in Utah recently completed an impressive range of heritage tourism and preservation initiatives. These include construction of six heritage area entry signs along the 250-mile Heritage Highway 89 corridor, publication of a heritage products brochure and travel planner, production of heritage tourism DVDs, and development of a veteran's memorial in a historic armory building. Matching funds from a Preserve America grant supported much of the work.

As a recently designated NHA (2006), the MPNHA has also

implemented a series of early action "demonstration" projects, such as restoration of a Carnegie Library in Ephraim, UT, one of four such buildings in the Heritage Area. Work on the other three structures will commence soon, with fundraising efforts already underway. Another demonstration project now underway is development of an equestrian park and arena. Serving as an event center and a boarding facility, the new space will highlight the important role that horses played, and continue to play, in the local economy. Local cowboys will be involved in interpreting this significant aspect of Mormon pioneer heritage. Support for the project has come from partners at the local, state and national levels as well as the non-profit sector.



BEFORE: A historic armory building that was part of the MPNHA preservation initiative



AFTER: The Armory is now home to a Veteran's Memorial, which features this recently completed mural.

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New curriculum with focus on coal, canals and the Industrial Revolution debuts in Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor

“Tales of the Towpath,” a fourth- and fifth-grade interdisciplinary curriculum, introduces students to life along the Delaware and Lehigh canals in the 1850s, when canal commerce was at its peak and the United States was emerging as an industrial nation. The focal point of the curriculum is a new children’s book about the adventures of 10-year-old Finn Gorman, the son of Irish immigrants. Finn sails with his family to America in 1846 and eventually owns and operates his own canal boat. As he travels the Delaware and Lehigh canals, Finn befriends other children whose families are tied to important components of the Industrial Revolution: coal mining, the lumber and iron industries, agriculture, and the transportation of manufactured goods on the canals, America’s water highways.

Written by D&LNU Outreach Coordinator, Dennis Scholl, the storybook takes students on an enjoyable journey through time and also serves as a source of standardized classroom lessons that emphasize language arts, math, science, geography, social studies, art, and music. The project was developed by a 20-member volunteer team of current and retired teachers, principals, curriculum coordinators and historians.

When the curriculum arrives at a school, it is housed inside replicated ship trunks. Each trunk holds copies of the book and a teacher’s manual that includes lessons, activities, a book glossary, field trip and assembly opportunities, historical resources, and an expanded teacher’s version of the storybook filled with inquiry questions, internet links, historical tidbits and other teaching options. The trunks also contain reproductions of 19th-century items that are mentioned in the book’s 24 chapters.

The curriculum is being implemented as a pilot program in five school districts in the Heritage Corridor. Thirteen pilot



A reproduction ship trunk, housing the new “Tales of the Towpath” Curriculum

teachers implementing the program completed six hours of Pennsylvania Act 48 professional development training last summer. The teachers will provide feedback to further shape and refine the curriculum before its release to public, parochial, private and home schools in the fall of 2009. Funding for the project came from state and private sources.

MotorCities National Heritage Area doubles 2008 grant program

During the 2008 grant cycle, MotorCities National Heritage Area awarded more than \$92,000 in grants to 19 organizations across southeast Michigan, doubling the amount awarded the previous year. Approved projects ranged from the development of new interpretive exhibits at local museums to facilitating development of a visitor’s center at the Model T Automotive Heritage Complex.

“The auto industry has probably done more to shape the American landscape and American society than any other industry. Each of our grant recipients is telling its portion of that story,” said Gary Familian, MotorCities’ Managing Director. “These grants will help to increase the volume of the voices of the people and places across Southeast Michigan. This is a time where we all need to reflect on what is great about our region.” The next grant cycle is scheduled to take place in March 2009. For more information, visit www.motorcities.org.

Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation works with partners to protect battlefield land

The Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation (coordinating entity for the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District), in partnership with the Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT) and the Commonwealth of Virginia, recently announced a contract has been signed to purchase 209 acres of battleground associated with the Third Battle of Winchester. Located in Frederick County, the property links together areas previously protected by the Battlefields Foundation and CWPT, resulting in an impressive 575-acre battlefield preserve. After completing the purchase, the Battlefields Foundation and the Trust will work together to create a seamless network of interpretive trails. Bordered by growing neighborhoods, the area promises to be an island of quiet green space for generations to come. Visit www.shenandoahatwar.org for more information.

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Revolutionary War beacons light up the sky of New York, New Jersey

In celebration of the 225th anniversary of the evacuation of the United States by British troops in 1783, a 108-mile corridor of light illuminated the night sky across a wide swath of New York and New Jersey on November 25th. A joint project of the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area, the Crossroads of the American Revolution National Heritage Area and numerous other partners, the light came from a series of strategically placed beacons, meant to replicate original signal locations used by the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War.



A beacon lights up the night sky in celebration of the 225th anniversary of the evacuation of the United States by British troops

The high-tech xenon spotlights used for the ceremony were a far cry from the original 18th century beacons. An effective means of communication throughout the War, the original lights were usually piles of ignited brush. Though simple in nature, the systems proved vital in alerting the militia and the residents of New York and New Jersey to the approach of British Redcoats.

In addition to the beacons, commemoration activities also included dozens of reenactors dressed in traditional 18th century attire, mustering in Manhattan to mark the final exit of British troops from the original 13 colonies. Their departure occurred more than two years after the Continental Army's victory at Yorktown.

Legislative Update

January 6, 2009, will mark the start of the 111th Congress. Check back in next month's Alliance Update for news on National Heritage Area related bills introduced during the new legislative session. For more information on previous Congresses, including the 110th, visit <http://thomas.loc.gov>

PARTNER UPDATE

In mid-October, Danielle Feuille joined the National Park Service Heritage Areas office as an intern. Over the next 3 months, she will be working on a wide variety of projects, including an assessment and update of the Heritage Areas Program website. The review process began with a survey of selected NPS and Heritage Areas staff, seeking comments and opinions about the existing site – www.nps.gov/history/heritageas. The information compiled will help make the website more user-friendly.

Some frequently mentioned topics for improvement included timely legislative updates, reviews of best practices in heritage development and up-to-date contact information for all NHAs. Ideally, the website will be used for both longtime heritage development professionals as well as those new to the heritage areas movement.

Danielle will also soon start working on the National Heritage Areas history project. This involves creating an archive of NHA program documents, with the goal of compiling key resources into one searchable database. Finally, if time allows, Danielle will work on a partnership project with the Alliance of National Heritage Areas to create a comprehensive staff directory for all heritage areas and all NPS employees involved with the NHA program. Please feel free to contact Danielle, at Danielle_feuille@contractor.nps.gov.

Alliance of National Heritage Areas/National Park Service National Heritage Areas Program

The Alliance Update is a partnership project of the Alliance of National Heritage Areas and the National Park Service National Heritage Areas Program.

Send your heritage area events and news to the editor by the 25th of the month for inclusion in the following month's bulletin. Please forward this bulletin to others who may be interested, and encourage them to join our e-bulletin address list.

- Reach the editor at Eleanor_Mahoney@contractor.nps.gov
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CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS AND EVENTS

American Association for State and Local History Alderson Internship Grant Program

Recognizing the demand for students to gain real-working experience and to help smaller history museums and sites with their staffing needs, AASLH offers the Alderson Internship Grant Program. AASLH will provide funds at a 3:1 level. That means that AASLH will match \$3 to every \$1 (up to \$3,000). This unique AASLH opportunity allows AASLH members to hire an intern they may not otherwise be able to afford. For more information, visit www.aaslh.org

Register Now for National Council on Public History 2009 Conference

The 2009 NCPH annual meeting, "Towards Broader Horizons" will take place April 2-5 in Providence, RI. Early registration is now open. The conference will feature two National Heritage Area related programs, the first a roundtable on NHAs and Public History, the second, an exciting day-long tour through the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor. For more information, visit www.ncph.org

ASSISTANCE/AWARDS

IMLS Grant Programs

The Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS) offers a wide variety of grants and awards. A full description of all available assistance can be found at <http://www.imls.gov/applicants/name.shtml>

Apply Now for 2009 American Battlefield Protection Program Grants

The American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP) Grants provide seed money for projects that lead directly to the identification, preservation and interpretation of battlefield land and/or historic sites associated with wars on American soil. The goals of the program are 1) to protect battlefields and sites associated with armed conflicts that influenced the course of our history, 2) to encourage and assist all Americans in planning for the preservation, management, and interpretation of these sites, and 3) to raise awareness of the importance of preserving battlefields and related sites for future generations. The ABPP focuses primarily on land use, cultural resource and site management planning, and public education. The deadline for applications is January 23, 2009, learn more at <http://www.nps.gov/history/hps/abpp/>

Home Depot Foundation supports preservation for low-income housing

The Home Depot Foundation awards grants to projects that encourage community involvement and result in the production, preservation, or financing of housing units for low- to moderate-income families. Proposals including urban forestry strategies that create healthier, more vibrant communities will have a distinct advantage. Letters of Inquiry are due March 1, 2009, Visit <http://www.homedepotfoundation.org/> for a full listing of requirements.

PUBLICATIONS/RESOURCES

New NHA Management Planning Toolkit in the works; Northeast Region seeking examples of best practices

The Denver Service Center (DSC) is assisting the NPS Northeast Region with the development of a *Dynamic Toolkit for Developing a National Heritage Area Management Plan*. The *Toolkit* complements the *Components of a Successful National Heritage Area Management Plan* notebook developed in 2007 and is available at www.nps.gov/history/heritageas. This supplemental resource will provide concrete examples, templates, and best practices from established NHAs and will be accessible on-line and updated periodically with new examples. The *Toolkit* intends to illustrate to new NHAs how other NHAs have carried out the planning process described in the *Components'* notebook. It will address everything from deciphering the enabling legislation to submitting the final plan. For an idea of how the *Toolkit* might look, see http://www.nps.gov/phso/rta-toolbox/index_comtoolbox.htm

In order to make the *Toolkit* a success, the Northeast region is soliciting input and examples from NHAs that have already completed management plans. The following are just a few of the items that are needed:

- Timelines and Budgets
- Examples of early implementation projects
- Good 'Request for Proposals' (RFP) from the consultant selection process
- Public involvement strategies
- Resource inventories
- Interpretive plans and marketing plans

Please feel free to submit additional documents that you feel have facilitated your work, such as early press releases and meeting agendas. If you have questions or comments, or wish to participate, please contact Suzanne Copping, National Heritage Areas Coordinator for the Northeast Region, at Suzanne_copping@nps.gov or (410) 295-3149.

Featured Area article series will return next month.